

REMARKS

Claims 107-117, 119-136, 138-154, and 156, 158 and 160-167 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, claims 120, 122, 139, 141, 157, and 159 are pending.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 107-110, 112, 115, 116, 117, 119, 121, 123-129, 131, 134, 135, 136, 138, 140, 142-147, 149, 152-154, 156, 158, and 160-167 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zaltman (U.S. Patent 5,436,830) in view of Frost (U.S. Patent 5,041,972).

In order to advance prosecution of the instant application to issuance, Applicant has canceled claims 107-110, 112, 115, 116, 117, 119, 121, 123-129, 131, 134, 135, 136, 138, 140, 142-147, 149, 152-154, 156, 158, and 160-167 without prejudice. Applicant makes no admission that the subject matter recited in these canceled claims is unpatentable over Zaltman in view of Frost. Accordingly, Applicant expressly reserves the right to prosecute claims reciting the subject matter of these canceled claims in another application, *e.g.*, a continuation application.

Claims 111, 113, 114, 130, 132, 133, 148, 150, and 151 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zaltman (U.S. Patent 5,436,830) in view of Frost (U.S. Patent 5,041,972), and further in view of Bell (U.S. Patent 5,424,945).

In order to advance prosecution of the instant application to issuance, Applicant has canceled claims 111, 113, 114, 130, 132, 133, 148, 150, and 151 without prejudice.

Applicant makes no admission that the subject matter recited in these canceled claims is unpatentable over Zaltman in view of Frost and further in view of Bell. Accordingly, Applicant expressly reserves the right to prosecute claims reciting the subject matter of these canceled claims in another application, *e.g.*, a continuation application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 120, 122, 139, 141, 157, and 159 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicant appreciates Examiner's acknowledgement that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claims 120, 122, 139, 141, 157, and 159 so that they are now in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 120, 122, 139, 141, 157, and 159 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the reasons discussed above and more fully outlined in the original specification, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all objections.

The amendments to the claims presented above are believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
for the Applicant
by attorneys,

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